

(1)

PREDICTIONS

OF THE

Overthrow of Popery,

And the Landing of the

Prince of Orange

IN THE

WEST:

Written by *George Wither* Esquire, in the year 1660. And some Proposals for

PERPETUAL PARLIAMEN

Written by the same Author in 1652.

TO Act the last Scene which proceeds their *Doom*,
They now new vamped upon the Stage are come;
And, though that with the *King*, as if his Friends
They seem to side, they come for other ends,
Which he not yet discerning, in his Grace
Vouchsafes them a considerable Place,
And of prevailing they already boast,
As if they saw the LAMB and all his Host
Quite overthrown, which me as confident
Hath made that *God* their proud hopes will prevent,
And overthrow that *Tyranny* out-right,
By what they Dream shall raise it to its height.

But many *Tryals* must the *Saints* abide,
And very much their patience will be try'd
Here and elsewhere before that *Act* is done,
Which with an Anti-mask is now begun.
Our *Friends* inhabiting beyond the *Waters*,
And who were of our Tragedy Spectators,
Now Twenty years (though they perceive it not,
Or seem not to perceive it) in that Lot

A

Which

(2)

Which these have cast for us, designed are
(Or in what follows next) to have a share,
For *Hamans* PURS on foot ; not only here,
But likewise almost every other where.
And these think that to take them by his *Gin*,
With most speed, is, with us first to begin.
But there's a *Counter-Mine*, which will be sprung,
To blowup them, and all their Mines e're long, &c.
-----wherein they see

The *Beasts* late *deadly wound* nigh cur'd to be,
They on a sudden, are become as Jolly,
As if they thought it to be cured wholly ;
And, to impose their *Mark*, will now begin
To be more strict than ever they have been ;
So that e're long, few men shall live in peace,
Bear *Office*, or a free Estate possess
Where they have power, unless they marked are
In *Hand*, or *Forehead*, with their Character.
But, if that, whereof some imperfect views
Far off appear, accordingly ensues,
There will to thwart their hopes, a new *Star blaze*
Within the West, that shall the World *amaze* ;
And *influences* through the *Universe*
So quickly, and prodigiously disperse,
That, aided by concurring *Constellations*,
It shall have some effects upon most *Nations*,
And cause such *changes*, as will make a stand
In those Attempts which they have now in hand.
Yet know, it will but a *diversion* be,
Not that which must from *Bondage* set us free,

We, on this side the *Water* are not yet,
Confus'd enough, that order to beget
Which must establish us, and shall therefore
Pursue Self-interest a little more.

With *new Wine* our *old Bottles* must be fill'd,
(Endangering *Wine* and *Bottles* to be spill'd)
Till such as are in power be pleased to hear
The Counsel of a *sighted Engineer*.
With *new Cloth* our *old Garments* patcht must be,
(Whereby the *Rents* made wider ye shall see)

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Till

Till every *old Rag* be worn out, and then
 The *Robe* so rent shall be renew'd again.
 And they that own it, be secured more,
 And much more dignified, than heretofore.
 If they who must compleat it, make their choice
 By *Lot divine*, as well as humane *voice*.
 Where to *Self-seekers* never will agree,
 Until enforced by some *streights* they be.

Before the *Sons of Jacob* entrance found
 Into their *Promis'd Land*, they had a round,
 Or progress to fulfil, and many years
 They in the *Desarts* were *Probationers*,
 By several hardships, thereby to improve
 The *Seeds of Faith*, new sown at their remove
 From *Egypt*, and by *Signs* and *Wonders* shown
 To make unto themselves their frailties known.
 But they at each restraining of their Lust,
 Brake forth into repinings and distrust ;
 Yea, into flat *Rebellion*, into rearing
 Of *Idols* (when his Law God was preparing)
 Into a wicked causeless *Murmuring*
 Against the Means of their delivering
 From *Egypt's* Tryal, and into Wishes vain,
 That they might thither back return again.
 For which of many hundred thousands none
 Enjoy'd the *Promis'd Rest*, but two alone.

And we are just like them, yea, we have done,
 Since God, to bring us from our *Thrall* begun,
 The very same things in the *Wilderness*
 Of our *Probation* ; and our Carcases
 Shall there be left, unless we do betimes
 Make an Attonement for our passed Crimes ;
 And with unfeignedness that course pursue
 Which leads unto the Rest, that is in view, &c.

There is a course whereby, without disgrace,
 Or danger, you may bring that *work* to pass,
 And free your selves from that great cost and pain,
 Which without thanks or profit you sustain ;
 Afflicting others too, by those *Confusions*
 Which are increast by your irresolutions.

Until

Until a better therefore shall appear,
 Be pleased that Expedient to hear,
 And by those *preventions*, or *that good*
 It promiseth, you find a likelihood,
 Take heed, that no self-interest, divert
 That approbation, whereunto your heart
 Inclinet you ; for *God* will find you out,
 And cross the *Counter-work* you go about.

In *England* and in *Wales*, there is a *Shire*,
 For ev'ry Week that's numbred in the year.
 By *Twelve*, according to the *Months* divide
 The *Counties*, with their Persons qualified
 For *Knights* and *Burgesses*, proportioning
 As near as may be, to anequalling
 The *number* of the whole, so, or so many
 Unto each Month, without omitting any.
 Ascertain then, the Month and Day, wherein
 Each *twelfth part* an Election shall begin ;
 (The middle of the Week, appearing best,
 As being furthest from the day of Rest.)
 On each first *Wednesday*, of each Month, let those
 By whom our *Deputies* are to be chose,
 Respectively convene in ev'ry Shire,
 Upon that Month, and *Wednesday* ev'ry year,
 Which is to them assign'd ; and having chosen,
 (At Months end) let each twelfth part, of the dozen,
 Send up their *Chosen men*, to represent
 Their Shires and Boroughs in the Parliament ;
 And on that very Day, in which they come,
 Let all their Predecessors give them Room.

Thus one *Month* some, and *Month* by *Month* for ever
 Let each twelfth part, still orderly persevere
 To take a turn, till ev'ry Shire hath had
 A *Month* in ev'ry year ; and having made
 Their choice, let them still *enter* and *withdraw*
 Successively by a *perpetual Law*,
 No man a *place of Trust*, supplying there,
 At one *Election*, longer than one year.

The Book Intituled, The Perpetual Parliament, is designed to be Reprinted, and
 presented to all the Members.

F I N I S.